

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00  
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-09  
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2170

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ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

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DEAHQS FOR ENOL, EN, IG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR/MEX

SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT,  
AUGUST 7-13, 1978, AND FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH 08/18/78

1. GOM ERADICATION AND ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS FOR THE 32ND  
WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW. FIGURES IN PARENTHESIS RE-  
FLECT CUMULATIVE TOTALS SINCE DECEMBER 1977.

ERADICATION, AUGUST 7-13, 1978

ZONES 5-9 3-4 1-2 OTHER TOTALS

A. POPPY FIELDS	5	0	35	0	40	(15,702)
B. HECTARES	.637	0	.35	0	.987	(1,264)
C. MARIHUANA FLDS	44	9	259	1	313	(4,797)
D. HECTARES	1.819	.09	25.4765	.08	27.4655	(605)
E. MIXED FIELDS	0	0	0	0	0	(113)
F. HECTARES	0	0	0	0	0	(18)

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ENFORCEMENT, AUGUST 7-13, 1978

- - THIS PERIOD CUMULATIVE

A. KG. HEROIN	-	-	.239	88.72
B. KG. OPIUM	-	-	1	299.485

C. KG. OPIUM SEED	-	.400	98.09
D. HEROIN LABS	-	1	16
E. HASHISH/MARIHUANA LABS	-	0	2
F. DANGEROUS DRUG LABS	-	0	3
G. KG. COCAINE	-	2.359	52.64
H. KG. MARIHUANA	-	5,783.572	423,427
I. KG. MARIHUANA SEED	-	5	1,793.73
J. KG. HASHISH	-	0	63.875
K. LITERS HASHISH OIL	-	0	.250
L. KG. PEYOTE	-	0	22.02
M. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS	482,254	21,328,602	

## N. DANGEROUS DRUG TABLET

MACHINES	-	0	3
O. ARRESTS, MEXICAN	-	85	3,149
P. ARRESTS, U.S.	-	1	105
Q. ARRESTS, OTHER	-	1	34
R. VEHICLES	-	11	485
S. WEAPONS	-	37	997
T. AMMUNITION	-	294	39,126
U. PESOS	-	\$3,000	\$3,217,288
V. DOLLARS	-	0	75,432
W. AIRCRAFT	-	0	31
X. VESSELS	-	0	3

2. ERADICATION STATISTICS FOR THE 32ND WEEK OF 1978 COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977 SHOW 40 POPPY  
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FIELDS COVERING .987 HECTARES DESTROYED IN 1978 AS COMPARED TO 195 POPPY FIELDS COVERING 5.565 HECTARES DESTROYED DURING 1977. FIGURES FOR 1978 SHOW AN APPROXIMATE 80 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FIELDS DESTROYED AND AN APPROXIMATE 82 PERCENT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HECTARES DESTROYED COMPARED TO 1977 FIGURES. THE MAJORITY OF POPPY ERADICATION ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE IN ZONE II, CHILPANCINGO, GUERRERO, DURING BOTH 1977 AND 1978.

## 3. FIELD OPERATIONS:

A) ZONE 01: OAXACA: MITRE TEAM GROUP McNAMARA AND TINDALL VISITED THE TACTICAL AREA ACCCOMPANIED BY GOM-PROVIDED ESCORT OFFICERS TO CONDUCT PERSONAL INSPECTION OF THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS. DURING THE INITIAL MEETING WITH AT-TORNEY GENERAL FLORES HE STIPULATED THEY WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ANY AND ALL FACETS OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH TOTAL FREEDOM TO ASK QUESTIONS OR REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHENEVER THEY HAD DOUBTS. DURING THE PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING CONDUCTED BY THE MITRE GROUP FOR BAEZA AND HIS SENIOR STAFF ON FRIDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1978, THE VISITING TECHNICIANS AGREED THEY HAD NOT OBSERVED ANY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT PROBLEMS IN THE AREAS VISITED BASED ON THEIR VISUAL INSPECTIONS. THE MITRE GROUP DEPARTED MEXICO CITY ON SUNDAY 18 AUGUST FOR WASHINGTON.

B) ZONE 02: CHILPANCINGO: COORDINATOR ORDONEZ RASCON NOTIFIED EMBASSY OFFICER HIS RECORDS REVEAL THEY DESTROYED 99 POPPY FIELDS IN JULY AS OPPOSED TO 390 IN JULY OF 1977. HE ATTRIBUTES THE SIGNIFICANT DECREASE TO THE WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH PREVAILED DURING THE PLANTING SEASON AND AN OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE BY THE CAMPESINOS TO PLANT POPPIES IN OPEN AREAS. THEY ARE DETECTING SMALLER FIELDS WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONCEALMENT TO AVOID BOTH DETECTION AND

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SPRAYING. ORDONEZ LOOKS FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM WHICH IS DUE IN HIS AREA BY END OF AUGUST. ACTIVITY IN ZONE 02 HAS BEEN CONFINED TO SECTOR 252 (LOS ORGANOS), SECTOR 253 (TETELA DE RIO), AND SECTOR 258 (FILO DE CABALLO). THESE ARE TRADITIONAL GROWING AREAS.

C) ZONE 06: CULIACAN: THE MITRE GROUP (CARDENAS AND HOFFMAN) ESCORTED BY GOM-PROVIDED TECHNICIANS VISITED THE CENTRAL BASE IN CULIACAN AND THE TACTICAL AREAS AS PART OF THEIR STUDY REQUIREMENT ESSENTIAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS. DURING THEIR PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING FOR AG FLORES, HOFFMAN EMPHASIZED HIS VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS RELATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMPAIGN IN GENERAL WITH

PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE OUTSTANDING FLYING ABILITY OF THE SPRAY PILOTS WHO FLEW AT LOW ALTITUDES, AND SPRAYED THE TARGETS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF ACCURACY WITH A MINIMUM OF DRIFT TO THE SURROUNDING VEGETATION.

D) ZONE 07: CHIHUAHUA: THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM FLEW  
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RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS IN THE HIDALGO DEL PARRAL AREA IN SECTORS 77, 88, 92, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111 AND 127, FOR A TOTAL COVERAGE OF ELEVEN SECTORS. THE ONLY IL-LICIT FIELDS DETECTED CONSISTED OF 22 MARIHUANA CROPS WHICH WERE SPRAYED BY LOW-LEVEL ALTITUDE TASK FORCE. THE TEAM IS NOW MOVING TO SALTILLO AREA BUT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SURPRISES BASED ON DETECTION THUS FAR. BOTH INCLEMENT WEATHER AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS HAVE CAUSED A LOSS OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAYS; HOWEVER, TEAM EXPECTS TO BE IN THE ZONE 02 AREA (GUERRERO) DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 21 AND WIND UP IN ZONE 06 BY END OF AUGUST.

NOTE: DURING THE NASA MEETINGS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, EARTH RESOURCES LABORATORY (ERL) DIRECTOR MOONEYHAN EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY RELATIVE TO THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM CONDUCTING SOME VERIFICATION ON THE INTERIM SYSTEM FINDINGS PERIODICALLY TO ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC BENCHMARKS. EMBASSY OFFICERS JUDGE BAEZA WILL AGREE TO THIS AND MESH THIS REQUIREMENT WITH THE EVALUATION MISSION DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

A) FLIGHT OPERATIONS: THE ASSISTANCE ATTACHE HAS STRESSED TO BAEZA THE NEED TO INculcate A CONCEPT OF DISCIPLINE, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS IN HIS ORGANIZATION TO MINIMIZE PERSONNEL PROBLEMS. THE NAU ADVISORY STAFF IS ALSO CONDITIONING THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, A MUCH NEEDED 150 PAGE OPERATIONS MANUAL WAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO BAEZA FOR HIS REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT SHOULD NOW ESTABLISH THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN AWARENESS ON THE PART OF ALL PILOTS AND FLIGHT CREWS OF  
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THEIR OBLIGATIONS COVERED BY REGULATIONS AND THE PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY.

B) FLIGHT TRAINING: EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH DOSS AVIATION ON AUGUST 18, 1978, TO CONTRACT TWO BILINGUAL ROTARY WING INSTRUCTOR PILOTS FOR A TOTAL PERIOD OF 90 DAYS IN ORDER TO FREE AERO SERVICES PILOTS TO PERFORM OPERATIONAL MISSIONS. THE 90 DAYS WILL NOT BE CONSECUTIVE IN ORDER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AND ALLOW FOR UNEXPECTED CONTINGENCIES.

C) MAINTENANCE:

1. MODEL 212 HELICOPTER (XC-BET) UNDER REPAIR FOR EXTENSIVE CRASH DAMAGE IN RAMAPO IS DESCRIBED TO BE FULLY ASSEMBLED AND PRESENTLY IN THE PAINTING STAGE. THE PURCHASE ORDER COVERING THIS REPAIR IS THE ONLY TRANSACTION REMAINING UNDER THE BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON (BHT) CONTRACT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS BHT SUBMITTED ADDITIONAL INVOICE AMOUNTING TO DOLLARS 235,000 TO COVER THE COST OVER-RUN.

2. CRASH DAMAGED CESSNA 206 (XC-CAX) RETURNED TO AERO SERVICES ON 16 AUGUST NOW OPERATIONALLY AVAILABLE. THIS FIXED WING AIRCRAFT SUFFERED CRASH DAMAGE UPON TAKEOFF FROM PACHUCA AIRSTRIP DURING THE NATIONAL RECON PLAN THIS PAST FEBRUARY. INSURANCE COVERAGE CLAIM OFFSET THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE REPAIR COSTS.

3. E-SYSTEMS: THE THREE ON-CALL PERSONNEL SUPPLY SPECIALISTS ASSIGNED TO CULIACAN HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO TWO AS THE AG OFFICE HIRED THREE LOCAL TECHNICIANS WHO ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF BEING TRAINED BY THE CONTRACTOR.

4. MAINTENANCE TRAILERS: DRAWINGS RELATED TO THE MODIFICATIONS FOR THE FORMER MOPSS TRAILERS WERE COMPLETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. ESSENTIALLY, THE MODS WILL TAKE PLACE IN TWO SEPARATE STAGES WHICH CONSIST OF MODIFICATIONS TO TRAILERS AND SUBSEQUENTLY, THE OUTER SHELTER/WORK AREA WHICH WILL INCLUDE A HOIST. THE COSTS WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE FIELD SUPPORT AGREEMENT ALLOTMENT.

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P 222350Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2172  
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(D) TELECOMMUNICATIONS: TELECOM TECHNICIAN CARPENTER  
TRAVELED TO CULIACAN WITH AG OFFICE PROJECT OFFICER TO  
INSPECT AND SELECT A SITE FOR THE ERECTION OF TRANSMITTING  
TOWER TO CONDUCT THE PROPAGATION TESTS WITH THE OFFSHORE  
NAVIGATIONAL, INC. (ONI) EQUIPMENT. THE BEST SITE IS AD-  
JACENT TO THE AG HANGAR AT THE CULIACAN AIRPORT. FYI: AG  
OFFICE IN PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT WITH ONI  
REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ONLY.

5. SIGNIFICANT TRENDS: WHILE STILL SOMEWHAT PREMATURE  
TO REACH A CONCLUSIVE JUDGMENT ON THE GENERAL SITUATION IN  
THE TRADITIONAL POPPY GROWING AREAS, THERE ARE INDICATORS  
WHICH ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC. THE JOINT EVALUATION  
TEAM INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SECTORS 101, 102, AND 104  
WHICH TWO YEARS AGO WERE COVERED WITH POPPY FIELDS, ARE  
EITHER UNDER EDIBLE CROP CULTIVATION OR NOT BEING  
UTILIZED. THE TEAM LANDED IN SOME OF THESE AREAS AND  
FOUND CORN, BEANS, PEPPERS, AND OTHER SUSTENANCE CROPS.

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6. MARIJUANA PRODUCTION: EMBASSY NOTED WITH GREAT IN-  
TEREST ITEM IN WEEKLY NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE DIGEST FOR  
WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18 (DEA 23235) THAT AS MUCH AS 70,000  
HECTARES OF MARIJUANA MAY BE UNDER CULTIVATION IN THE  
GUAJIRA OF COLOMBIA. BY CONTRACT, IN THE TWELVE MONTHS  
ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 1977, THE GOM LOCATED AND DESTROYED  
ONLY 3,885 HECTARES OF MARIJUANA. AS NOTED IN PARA ONE  
ABOVE, THUS FAR THIS YEAR GOM HAS LOCATED AND DESTROYED  
ONLY 605 HECTARES OF MARIJUANA. ASSUMING SOME ERROR IN

BOTH DATA SETS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT COLOMBIAN MARIJUANA  
PRODUCTION NOW EXCEEDS MEXICAN PRODUCTION BY A RATIO  
OF ALMOST 100 TO ONE. MCANINCH

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## Message Attributes

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